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DCI-IC 73-1115

5 March 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conferenced Text Editing (CONTEXT), Initial Demonstration of Delta Data Terminals in CIA/OJCS

- AT
1. Through the cooperation of [ ] and [ ] Systems Engineering Division, three Delta Data terminals were tied together in a conferencing mode. They were located in two adjoining rooms. Don Bush and his associates then demonstrated how a conference manager might call a conference, bring up a document for display and consideration among the conferees located at different locations, and make changes in the original document according to the decision of the conferees.
- AT
2. The conference net consisted of 3 Delta Data terminals, one of which had a TI printer tied in to demonstrate output. (For this preliminary test, one printer was sufficient; in our proposed experiment each terminal would have its own printer.) The software used was the SCRIPT and EDIT programs which are standard software packages available through [ ]. In addition, [ ] had devised some other software ad hoc for this demonstration to illustrate selected capabilities that would be required in real life conferencing.
3. As a result of this demonstration, [ ] reached the following conclusions:
- a. A text editing network experiment, to run over a period of several weeks, could operate with 3 rather than 6 CRTs. Originally he had assumed 2 CRTs at each station, with 3 stations. The demonstration made it possible to cut this initial requirement in half, with the printer serving to provide draft text at each terminal station rather than holding it on the 2nd CRT.
- b. The SCRIPT and EDIT programs, appropriately supplemented with some new software, should be adequate for the CONTEXT experiment. It will be necessary to request OJCS programmer support.
- c. The Delta Data terminals, tied to the CP/CMS 67 computer, provided capabilities generally suitable for the experiment.
- d. A simple voice network, hopefully using phone lines with speakers, should be adequate to supplement the CRT network.
- e. Pending the outcome of discussions with CIA [ ] we will not make alternative inquiries in industry or other agencies.
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Demonstration in CIA [ ]

4. Following the demonstration, it was agreed that [ ] the IHC Staff would prepare the draft of a request to CIA [ ] for support and the loan of 3 Delta Data Terminals. This will be cleared with [ ], and then presented informally to the Director of Joint Computer Services for an unofficial reaction. (We have no doubt but what General Graham will strongly support such a request, but we do not want to put it in formal channels until we check out the probable reaction.) The approach to [ ] will be made by [ ] with others if necessary.

5. A survey of IC Staff rooms was conducted. As a result, it was decided that the three terminals should be placed in the following rooms: [ ] office in 6E08; 6D57; and the tank in 6E25 where [ ] now has the post-mortem study. [ ], IC Staff Executive Officer, was consulted in these choices.

6. [ ] contacted CIA/OC. The latter's representative has inspected the three proposed locations. OC understands that our request to them for the voice conferencing network is dependent on the arrangements that can be made with OJCS for the CRTs. However, OC indicates that they expect to be able to provide the voice circuit as follows: they will place new black phones, each with a red button, in each of the 3 locations; there will be no black numbers assigned; to activate the voice circuit, it is only necessary to press the red button. OC engineers are checking out this plan, and will report back to us with cost and time schedules.

[ ]  
Acting Chairman

Intelligence Information Handling Committee

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